



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 29, 2004

H.R. 2457 **Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 14, 2004

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2457 would cost about \$5 million over the 2006-2009 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be negligible. H.R. 2457 would not affect revenues. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2457 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to design and build a visitor center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in Florida. The center would be located and constructed as specified in a new plan for the monument that, under current law, is expected to be completed in 2005. Because details on alternative designs and locations for the proposed visitor center being considered under that plan are not available at the present time, CBO cannot estimate the cost of building that center with precision. However, based on information from the NPS about the average cost of other visitor centers, we estimate that the new center would cost \$5 million, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. (The cost could be greater if a more-complex design for the project is chosen.) We also estimate that construction would begin in 2006 and last at least two years.

H.R. 2457 also would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey, for no consideration, 3.1 acres of land within the monument to the city of St. Augustine. According to the NPS, the land to be conveyed currently generates no significant receipts and is not expected to do so over the next 10 years. Hence, we estimate that conveying it would not significantly affect offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). We also estimate that the agency would spend less than \$50,000 to complete the conveyance, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.